

Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 SCI-06 AID-20 FDRE-00

HEW-08 SCA-01 SCSE-00 SWF-02 DRC-01 /133 W

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O 012211Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8200

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

JCS

DIA

AMCONSUL BELIZE

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

USCINCSO IMMEDIATE

COMUSARSO IMMEDIATE

COMUSAFSO IMMEDIATE

COMUSNAVSO IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS TEGUCIGALPA 4189

STATE PASS AID/FHA/FDRC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SWEL, HO

SUBJECT: HURRICANE FIFI - SITREP 18

1. AMBASSADOR ACCOMPANIED PRESIDENTIAL EMISSARIES HERMAN KLEINE AND RUSSELL MCCLURE TO NORTH COAST DISASTER AREA ON MORNING OF OCTOBER 1. THE EMISSARIES ARE EXPECTED TO LEAVE SAN PEDRO SULA ON MORNING OF OCTOBER 2 TO RETURN TO WASHINGTON. THE AMBASSADOR INTENDS TO RETURN TO TAGUCIGALPA EARLY AFTERNOON OF OCTOBER 2 TO DECIDE ON FUTURE PLANS AND

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OPERATIONS.

2. MILGP HAS PREPARED ESTIMATE THAT AS OF SEPTEMBER 29 699,700 LBS. OF SUPPLIES HAVE BEEN DELIVERED TO HONDURAS BY U.S. AIR FORCE AND ARMY SOURCES. MILGP ALSO ESTIMATES THAT 241,500 LBS. OF SUPPLIES HAVE BEEN DELIVERED BY U.S. NATIONAL GUARD PLANES.

3. DAST OFFICER MADE FOLLOWING ESTIMATE OF LAND COMMUNICATION SITUATION:

(A) HIGHWAY 1 (SAN PEDRO SULA - PUERTO CORTES). BRIDGES OUT AT RIO BLANCO AND RIO CHOLOMA. VEHICLES CAN BYPASS USING FORDS. PRIVATE CONTRACTOR HAS INITIATED CONSTRUCTION AND EXPECTS TO HAVE BOTH BRIDGES BACK IN USE BY OCTOBER 30. MATERIAL IS BEING FURNISHED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT. REPRESENTATIVE OF BROWN AND ROOT STATED THAT ARRANGEMENTS ARE UNDER WAY TO "RECONSTRUCT" HIGHWAY FROM SAN PEDRO SULA TO THE NORTH COAST AS PART OF A PLANNED MODERNIZATION PROGRAM. ALSO, UNITED FRUIT HAS BEEN PROVIDING PILE MATERIAL FOR CURRENT WORK.

(B) LA MESA - SAN PEDRO SULA BYPASS ROAD IN USE. ONE SINGLE UNIT OF BAILEY BRIDGING REMAINS IN PLACE. SECOND BRIDGE HAS BEEN REPAIRED. SECTION OF MAIN HIGHWAY BRIDGE IS OUT BUT AS WITH ALL OF PRIMARY ROADS IT HAS BEEN CONTRACTED OUT FOR REPAIRS THROUGH A JOINT EFFORT OF HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT AND LOCAL CONSTRUCTION FIRMS. NO FIRM DATE REPAIR COMPLETION.

(C) LA MESA - EL PROGRESO. BRIDGE REPAIRS COMPLETED 30 SEPTEMBER. ROAD SHOULDERS REQUIRE WORKING ON BUT NOT OF IMMEDIATE IMPORTANCE.

(D) EL PROGRESO - TELA. ONLY MAJOR AREA REQUIRING REPAIR IS AT LAS DELICIAS WHERE 180 FEET OF BRIDGE WAS WASHED OUT. PASSABLE BY FORDING. UNDER CONTRACT BUT WORK NOT YET IN PROGRESS. ESTIMATED COMPLETION 30 - 45 DAYS.

(E) SECONDARY ROADS REQUIRE SUBSTANTIAL MAINTENANCE
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EFFORT BUT THIS IS NOT CONSIDERED TO BE A CRITICAL PROBLEM. CONSTRUCTION REPRESENTATIVE INDICATED ROAD FROM PUERTO CORTES TO OMOA WOULD BE DONE BY CONTRACT. HOWEVER, THE PRIORITY OF AVAILABLE RESOURCES WILL BE GIVEN TO PRIMARY ROAD NET.

(F) RAILROAD LINE FROM LA LIMA TO PUERTO CORTES IS OPEN -- ONLY RESTRICTION AT PRESENT TIME IS ON SPEED

AND NOT LOAD. UNITED FRUIT COMPANY IS PROVIDING 50
MAN REPAIR CREW TO NATIONAL RAILROAD FOR REPAIRS IN
SOUTHERN END OF SULA VALLEY. ESTIMATE 2 - 4 WEEKS
BEFORE LINE IS OPEN FROM TELA TO EL PROGRESO. CREWS
WILL CONTINUE OPERATIONS ON AN EXTENDED WORK BASIS
UNTIL MAJOR REPAIRS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED.

(G) STANDARD FRUIT HAS INDICATED RAILROAD NET FROM
LA CEIBA INTO AGUAN VALLEY WILL BE OPEN BY OCTOBER 2.
THIS NET CAN SUPPORT AREA REQUIREMENTS. HIGHWAYS ARE
DAMAGED AND WILL REQUIRE EXTENSIVE REPAIRS.
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